



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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## Notification Related to United States Postal Service Interruption

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On Friday, November 16, 2001, the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of the United States Postal Service (USPS) issued a memorandum temporarily and immediately suspending Express Mail service to Washington, D.C., ZIP Codes 202xx through 205xx (e.g., 20231). The USPTO is designating this interruption in the Express Mail service of the USPS as a postal service interruption within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 21(a) and 37 CFR 1.6(e).

The USPTO is establishing the following address which may be used (as an alternative to the address set out in 37 CFR 1.1) on an emergency basis for patent-related correspondence being delivered to the USPTO by the USPS's Express Mail service:

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 2327  
Arlington, VA 22202

Special box designations (e.g., Box PCT) should be also included in the address as appropriate.

To the extent that the address provided in this notice is inconsistent with the address set forth in 37 CFR 1.1, the provisions of 37 CFR 1.1 (and 37 CFR 1.8 and 1.10) are hereby sua sponte waived such that correspondence addressed as set forth in this notice will be treated as if it were addressed as set forth in 37 CFR 1.1 for purposes of 37 CFR 1.8 and 1.10.

Parties may continue to use the Washington, D.C., 20231 addresses for the purposes set out in 37 CFR 1.1 if such correspondence is accepted by the USPS for delivery to the USPTO and is not returned to the sender. If such correspondence is not accepted by the USPS or is returned, it should be resubmitted to the USPTO using the procedure set forth below.

The USPTO published a notice in the Official Gazette on October 9, 2001, that provides guidance in the situation in which a post office refuses to accept the deposit of mail for delivery by Express Mail service. See United States Postal Service Interruption and Emergency, 1251 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 55 (Oct. 9, 2001). This notice was also posted on the USPTO's Internet Web site (<http://www.uspto.gov/september11/uspsnotice01.htm>). The guidance set forth in that notice also applies if a post office refuses to accept the deposit of correspondence for delivery by Express Mail due to the suspension of the USPS's